DECLASSIFIED

February 3, 1962 - Saturday

We all lunched today with Gaston Palewski at the Palazzo Farnese. This must surely be the finest Embassy building in the world. I had not seen it for 35 years, and had forgotten how splendid it ~~was~~ is. Gaston, with his unusually good taste, has immensely improved it. With no income outside his meager French government salary, he has for thirty years been an ardent collector, especially frequenting the small shops on Rue Bonaparte in Paris. The results are everywhere evident in the Farnese. He has reconciled the magnificent with the requirements of comfortable domesticity.

The large number of guests were swallowed up in the huge rooms. The lunch was principally for moving picture people, amongst others, the delightful French producer, Rene Clair. Leila and Elie de Tallyrand, who spend three months each winter in Rome, were there.

Afterwards, Gaston gave us a quick tour of one floor of the house, and each room presented a fresh surprise, because of its proportions and decorations. It is said that Alessandro Farnese, who built it, obtained permission from the Pope to possess himself of any buried statuary in Rome that he could ~~have abstracted~~ from the earth in a single night. Apparently he knew where all the marble bodies were buried. With 400 workmen and forty ox carts, he picked up enough objects in his noctural expedition to fill the empty places in his palace. ~~Most of them still~~ remain.

RELEASER
REL [illegible] DATE 6-17-81
FBI/DOJ
Initials Processing
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

Gaston told me he ~~was~~ was in Paris last week, and ~~had talked alone with~~ the General. He found de Gaulle extremely confident of his ability to settle the Algerian question. He told Palewski matters were reaching a climax, and within a short time he expected to arrive at an agreement with the FLN. He felt no apprehension about not being able to master the OAS and other die-hards.

DECLASSIFIED